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MEXICO AND GUATEMALA.

It would appear like the irony of fate should Mexico and Guatemala engage in hostilities on the eve of the second Hague congress, as did Great Britain and the Boer republics so near the date of the first peace parliament. The friendly powers ought to intervene to prevent the threatened rupture of friendly relations.

It should not be difficult to reach an agreement. The cause of the trouble does not involve the honor of either nation. Nor are any material interests at stake. One General Lima is charged with having committed a murder in Mexico and to have fled to Guatemala. The authorities of that country refuse to deliver him to the Mexicans, probably on the ground that they consider his alleged crime a political one. There may be an extradition treaty, but international ethics do not require one government to deliver up political fugitives to the mercy of the political opponents. The only question, then, is whether General Lima can be considered a political fugitive. That is a question as to the nature of the crime. The Hague convention provides for a bureau of inquiry the duty of which is to collect all facts and data connected with a subject of dispute, that threatens to become serious. If an impartial inquiry were instituted for the purpose of ascertaining whether the fugitive general is entitled to protection, the problem would be solved, as it was in the case of the North Sea incident which nearly involved England and Russia in a conflict.

There are people in this world who take to flight as naturally as wild beasts. They have never mastered their wild natures. There are many of these savage characters in the Central American republics, and they are a source of constant unrest. Mexico has its share of the turbulent element, but that country has had the benefit of the strong will and sound judgment of its President, Mr. Diaz. Some have referred to him as a "tyrant," and "autocrat," and a "despot," and pointed to his "rule" as a warning against office-holding for a long term of years. But what would Mexico have been today without the firm hand of its President? The Central American republics present a picture different from that of Mexico. In the latter country the revolutionary elements have been subdued. Peace and prosperity have resulted. Mexico has advanced because its government has inspired confidence. The other countries have not shared in the advance because of their revolutionary outbreaks.

OUR OBLITERATED FORESTS.

The question of our rapidly disappearing forests has been brought prominently before the country again in a bulletin issued by the government. Its contents set forth the fact that the people of the United States are using four times as much wood each year as is produced in all our forests for the same period. The statement is accepted as a fact, even by the syndicates who are engaged in the work of timber destruction. It is apparent that there can be but one result unless there is a mighty counter movement in the way of planting trees and the raising of new forests. About one fourth of the total forest area is now embraced within the confines of the national reserves. Added to this are the reserves of the states which are comparatively inconsequential. No great help can be obtained from them in the prevention of the scarcity that is destined to come in the near future.

It is worthy of note that the timber producing sections of the country have been of kaleidoscopic character in that the center is constantly shifting. In 1870 Maine produced more than any other state. By 1890 this distinction had moved to the states at the head of the Great Lakes. Ten years later it was down in the Southern states. The Pacific coast country is now increasing its output immensely and it is believed that the figures of the next decade will show the Northwest in the lead of all other lumber producing regions in this country. After that the last move will have been made for there will be no more forests to devastate in this country.

Government experts have calculated with great nicety the amount of timber cut since 1880. They say that this would form a floor one inch thick over 25,000 square miles, enough to cover completely the states of Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Delaware. This is an enormous quantity, and one can readily believe the government experts who declare that we have been very wasteful, that we are using much more than we need, much more than we would use if we lived in Europe. It is estimated that the value of the present yearly yield is \$1,075,000,000. The product is used for lumber, firewood, and the manufacture of paper. The wood pulp used for this latter purpose is alone valued at \$15,000,000 a year.

These figures tell a forceful and convincing story, and are arousing patriotic Americans to a realization of forest condition facts, and already steps in the direction of renewal are being taken. But at best only one tree is being replaced while several are being cut down. Besides the average age of the marketable tree is 160 years so it will be nearly five generations before the work of today will return to benefit and

bless mankind. Manifestly there is much to do towards a replenishment of the forests that were once the pride and boast of every American. But current demonstrations under both government and private enterprise make it clear that new forests can be grown where old ones formerly stood. In this connection a word of advice to the people of Utah might not be amiss. Our water sheds once so well covered with trees should be returned to the condition of years ago, and the work should begin at once.

PRIESTS SUPPORT THEMSELVES.

A Paris dispatch says French Catholic clergymen in the capital of France have been forced to adopt some means of making a living, since they were deprived of their stipends by the separation act. Some of them have formed a syndicate, the chief object of which is to procure coal and provisions at wholesale prices. There is also a federation of clerics who do manual labor. Many priests who are capable gardeners and carpenters find employment from Roman Catholics through this federation. Its members undertake to give eight hours to manual work, eight to clerical and eight to rest. In the department of Cher priests have formed a beekeepers' association and make as a yearly income from the sale of honey about \$150, almost as much as their former stipends.

It is fortunate that the French priests do not have to answer to the charge of commercialism, while they are trying to earn a living and at the same time administer to the spiritual wants of the people. Similar unselfish service by "Mormon" Elders has been severely condemned by some of their critics who have neither heart nor brain. The Apostle Paul, however, set a worthy example, although he maintained that the laborer is worthy of his reward. A clergyman who will remain at his post even when there is no salary attached to it, is an exception in this selfish age.

ORGAN IS WORRIED.

The organ of the crooks manifests decided uneasiness over the capture of Bell, the predatory and migratory bogus policeman, just as it did when Parrent, the card sharp, was caught. It argued that it had no good reason to do so, for was he not to testify against the chief of police whose name figured so strongly in the \$10,000 McWhirter robbery? And is not Bell to do likewise?

It is unnecessary to go further for an explanation. In every way has it thrown obstacles in the path of the officers of the law. In every way has it berated and abused them. In every way has assistance been given to the crooks to make good their escape. Now that they are being apprehended, one at a time, the gang at home has chills and sees things, including the opening doors of a prison house. The work of handicapping the state in the apprehension of the fugitives having failed, other tactics are now taken. They include the vilification of the victims and the discrediting of the testimony of the witnesses. More than that, they not only hint, but brazenly and falsely charge that the jury panel is being packed by men who are predisposed to find the city's notorious chief of police, guilty. That is a slander so palpably audacious and untrue as to nauseate and disgust all decent citizens of the community. What the organ is afraid of is that justice may be done, and punishment visited upon some of the crowd whose liberty is essential to its own questionable career.

We have no means of knowing what Bell's testimony will be and whether or not he will confess to the full facts in the case, but it is certain that the news of his capture has caused the temperature to rise and fall with marked frequency about the police station, and at the office of the newspaper which prints its sheet on the principal street of the tenderloin district, and which so blatantly and notoriously holds one of its tentacles arms about that district as it throws its other lovingly around the ministerial defamers of the city and pulls them together in an unholy commingling for the state's degradation.

PEACEFUL TRIBE IN AFRICA.

In these days of peace talk it is interesting to read about a tribe of Africans that seems to have solved the problem with which the civilized world is grappling. But they are savages! Commandant Moll, who headed a French expedition into the interior of the dark continent, and marched and counter-marched about 12,500 miles, found that tribe in the basins of the Mayo Kabbé and the Mayo Sina. The name of those Africans is the Moundans.

According to the descriptions by the recorder of the expedition, the country is a stretch of vast plains, intersected by broad valleys, where, in sandy beds, flow the Mayo Kabbé and the Mayo Sina. On the south, west, and north, it is bounded by broken, sunblistered mountains. You find few forests there. The rainy season lasts from June to October. The rest of the year there is a tropical drought.

The Moundans are described as a strong and handsome race. The quiet, stationary life they have led since they took up their abode here has made them shepherd farmers attached to their flocks and paternal fields and the soil that nourishes them and has also made them ingenious and skilful builders. They never saw a gun. They saw the traveler as he approached, and offer him drinking water, which they have kept cool in the shade of a thicket, for they are hospitable, kind, and gentle. Among them you may go where you like—unarmed, and without bearing gifts or troubling to take along provisions; everywhere you will be cordially received and generously entertained. It must be a surprise to travelers who are accustomed to see only warriors and cannibals, armed for attack or defense, to come upon a peaceful people only bent on showing hospitality and kindness to strangers. But Africa has many surprises. It has its giants and its pygmies, and even its white race, it is claimed, in the heart of the continent. It is only natural that it should have its Quakers, too, or peace friends. The life of these Africans is said to pass

without any marked events. The masters are good-natured, the women are independent, and the slaves are treated with kindness. These facts are noteworthy. For it is unquestionably true that human rights naturally will be respected by people to whom war is abhorrent.

ELDER JACQUES THE AUTHOR.

Concerning the authorship of the hymn, "Softly beams the sacred dawn," Elder Martin S. Lindsay writes:

"Referring to your editorial notice of a statement in the current number of the Improvement Era regarding the authorship of the hymn beginning, 'Softly beams the sacred dawn,' it affords me very great pleasure to inform your readers that upon one occasion, a number of years before the death of the late Elder John Jacques, I asked him if he were the author of the hymn in question. His reply was, 'I say I am,' which, by reason of his extreme modesty, meant 'I am.' Furthermore, Elder Jacques was familiar, more or less, with every hymn in our Hymn Book and had not been the author of any hymn accredited to him he would have set the matter right at the very earliest opportunity. I was closely associated with Elder Jacques for many years, and I think I am safe in saying that I found in him the highest type of noble, honorable manhood. His overshadowing characteristic was modesty. The hymn referred to is truly a masterpiece of literature, but he has left behind him other gems of prose and poetry equally meritorious. Like other gifted men, his true worth was not known or appreciated, outside of the circle in which he moved, until he passed to the other side of the veil. I sometimes think that Elder Jacques' modesty was a misfortune, not particularly to himself, but to the Latter-day Saints whom he loved so well. Had he been less modest and more ambitious to have his name emblazoned on the pages of history, we would today have more literary gems of thought and truth like the hymn referred to and 'O say what is truth!' from his facile pen. Permit me to add that were the facts known there are many priceless products of his brain and mind that are lost today that do not bear his signature."

The board of health is rarely boarding house board.

The spring may be described as backward and forward.

It's a very backward town that has no strike these days.

The policeman's club seems to be about the most effective strike-breaker.

All over the country grand juries and trial juries are making the way of the transgressor hard.

Ambassador Bryce says that the United States needs poets. Will Indiana please supply the need?

Premier Laurier says that everybody feels safer up in Canada. Greene and Gaynor have never said so.

"The dignity of labor" is always in more or less danger whenever it exceeds the eight-hour limit.

With excavations for so many big buildings going on, it is hard to say which are the six best cellars.

Bell, of McWhirter robbery fame, has been arrested in Kansas City. Tell the Bell softly, there's a crape on the door.

San Francisco's earthquake and fire seem, in the light of subsequent events, to have been among its lesser misfortunes.

Why do not the striking Greek smelters at Murray take their grievances to the Amphictyonic council for settlement?

There is a movement afoot in Chicago to make it a city beautiful. It is a noble ambition but it looks quite like a forlorn hope.

Mayor McClellan and Tammany are said to be at peace. So were the lion and the lamb after the lion had swallowed the lamb.

The Massachusetts house has refused to concur in the bill to tax education. That is a house that is built upon the rock and not upon the sands.

The New York World prints its black list of twenty-seven state senators who voted against the removal of Superintendent Kelsey in black-faced type. As a color scheme it is a success.

A Pennsylvania negro has been sentenced to one year in prison for carrying a razor. This negro has been deprived of his dearest right. Where is the fifteenth amendment?

John Barrett says that every Indian and cowboy in South America has heard of Theodore Roosevelt, although they do not know the names of Washington and Lincoln.

When the aerial warship is perfected, and it is predicted that it will be soon, and its great guns bombard the earth, then will come true Colonel Henry Page's famous dictum that the further a bullet travels the faster it travels.

The most pitiful spectacle of all the many spectacles Salt Lake's political arena affords, is that of a once brilliant writer who was foremost in denouncing Kearns and his hired band of character assassins, and who now is found in the front rank of that devoted and subsidized band. Some of his friends urge that he ought not to be judged too harshly, remembering his needs, his habits and the fact that he is not far from second childhood. But it well recalls the campaign story of the delegation of darkies from a southern state to the famous convention that nominated Blaine. On being polled as to their choice, the chairman replied with all solemnity, "Dis delegation stands, four for Blaine, four for Sherman and four for sale."

street, when at the noon hour in a crowded thoroughfare a man was knocked down and deprived of his watch. The deed was typical of the Chicago school of crime.

WEDDING "CUT-UPS."

Kansas City Journal.
If there was ever an "unwritten law" applying to the most unmitigated nuisance of modern times it should cover reprisals upon the brazen "cut ups" who consider a wedding an appropriate opportunity to display their animosity. Just why the barbarous and idiotic custom of persecuting brides and grooms should survive in this day of alleged civilization is not clear. In most other respects men have outlived the influence of the anthropoid ape, but the wedding takers are still with us to remind us of our origin.

EDUCATING FOR PEACE.

Boston Transcript.
The Peace society has decided to inaugurate a campaign of education. At its first annual meeting on Wednesday it was decided to begin with the schools and colleges. But as Rabbi Wise very wisely remarked: "After all, the educated people alone cannot carry through our plans. The workmen, the farmers, the people to enlist in our great cause." He might have added the women, also.

LEAVE OUT SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Hartford Courant.
We dissent wholly and strenuously from the suggestion that our public school children should be asked to contribute money to help Peary to make another dash toward the north pole. Peary is all right, and his dashes toward the north pole are all right, too, so long as men of private fortune choose to pay his expenses. But our public schools exist for wholly different purposes, and many of those who attend them have a heavy enough financial task on their hands to be there at all. No contribution box of any kind should be passed around in our public schools. The moment the question of giving or not giving is raised, the same distinction between those who have and those who have not is set up that is one of the permanent elements of weakness in our social order. The school children will find out all about that later, and when such unavoidable distinctions come up fairly, but while they are in school they should be protected from all money seeking schemes, so that the children who are making a close shave of it to get any learning at all may retain their self-respect under the strengthening condition of equal comradeship.

JUST FOR FUN.

What the Caddy Saw.

"The London 'bobby' is as notorious for overgrown feet and hands as the New York 'cop'." Lacking the London caddy is generally accredited with never being at a loss for a reply. One day a "bobby" lifted up his hand to pat the caddy on the head, but the latter crowded his horse ahead. "Didn't you see me raise my hand?" demanded the "bobby."
"I did see the sky darken a moment, but my 'ose was shy'n' at your feet," retorted the caddy as he whipped up and went on.—New York Tribune.

Why He Quit.

Wilton Luckayo, the player, tells of a farmer in Indiana who went to see "Hamlet" for the first time, quite unbiased by any knowledge of either tragedy or author. After the star, who, of course, enacted the part of the melancholy prince, had made his first exit, the tiler of the soil turned to the man seated on his right and asked: "Does the yolk man in black come on again?" "Why, certainly," exclaimed the man. "You'll see a great deal of him." "That so?" queried the farmer, disappointedly. "Then I'm off."—Exchange.

He Placed an Order.

A small, sharp-faced boy, one of whose eyelids had an inclination to droop in a chronic wink, entered a tailor shop on upper Broadway, approached the proprietor and silently handed him a button. The tailor took it and looked puzzled.
"What's this for?" he asked. "I don't want it. I've got plenty of buttons."
"Dat's all right," said the youngster. "But yer wants business, don't yer?"
"Yes."
"Well, just sew a pair of pants on dat button."
The small boy was half-way up the block before the tailor reached the door.—New York Globe.

His Scheme Failed.

"I wonder why it is," remarked one of the two men who had just lunched, turning to speak to the other, "that they always have pretty cashiers at these restaurants."
But the pretty cashier, though she blushed and smiled, did not fail to detect the Canadian quarter he threw down in payment of his check.—Chicago Tribune.

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